

Remarks

Election/Restrictions:

2. Claims 3, 6 - 9 and 12 - 19 are withdrawn from further consideration in the present pending application. In view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, the inventors retain the right to present Claims 3, 6 - 9, and 12 - 19 in a divisional application.

Double Patenting:

3.-4. Claims 1 and 10 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter:

5.-6. The Examiner objected to Claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the respective claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Amended Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form, with all of the limitations of prior Claim 1. Claims 4 and 5 are dependent to amended Claim 2. Amended Claim 11 is rewritten in independent form, with all of the limitations of prior Claim 10. Amended independent Claims 2 and 11 are respectfully submitted to distinguish the present invention from the prior art made of record. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art is not analogous to the present invention due to the lack of teaching or disclosure of each of the elements of amended Claims 2, 4, 5 and 11.

The Examiner's guidance is appreciated. It is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Summary

The above identified amendments to the claims are respectfully submitted for the Examiner's review and entry into the application. It is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the above identified amendments to the claims place the pending application in a condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

In view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, the Applicants retain the right to present withdrawn Claims 3, 6 - 9, and 12 - 19 in a divisional application.

Revised Application Information sheets (three sheets), are attached to provide revised addresses for each inventor, and to verify that the application is assigned to each respective inventors, as recorded with the Assignment Division of the Office of Public Records.

If, for any reason, the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of the application as now presented is in order, it will be appreciated if the Examiner will telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the pending application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 19, 2004

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Appendix: Prior submitted drawings (three sheets, no changes)
Revised Application Information Sheets (three sheets)